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RECENT LITERATURE.

HAECKEL'S REPORT ON THE SIPHONOPHORÆ COLLECTED BY H. M. S. CHALLENGER during the years 1873-1876.—This report forms Part lxxvii. of the zoological series of reports, and consists of 383 pages and fifty lithographic and chromolithographic plates. The author's long-continued and elaborate investigations of living Siphonophoræ and medusæ in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Indian Oceans have enabled him to make it a generic monograph of the class. He distinguishes seventy-five genera, all clearly defined and described at length, containing 245 species. The plates are exquisite; remarkable both for beauty and elaborate finish of detail.

The following synopsis shows the distribution of the species.

ORDER I. DISCONNECTÆ.			Family.	Genera.	Species
Family.	Genera.	Species.	Agalmidæ.....	10	32
Discaliidæ.....	2	5	Forskaliidæ.....	4	11
Porpitidæ.....	4	15	Nectaliidæ.....	2	2
Velellidæ.....	3	16	Discolabidæ.....	3	11
			Anthophyridæ.....	4	9
ORDER II. CALYCONNECTÆ.			ORDER IV. AURONECTÆ.		
Eudoxiidæ.....	8	28	Stephaliidæ.....	2	2
Ersæidæ.....	2	4	Rhodaliidæ.....	2	3
Monophyidæ.....	6	17			
Diphyidæ.....	8	35	ORDER V. CYSTONECTÆ.		
Desmophyidæ.....	2	2	Cystalidæ.....	1	2
Polyphyidæ.....	3	8	Rhizophyridæ.....	6	11
ORDER III. PHYRONECTÆ.			Salaciidæ.....	1	2
Circaliidæ.....	1	3	Epibulidæ.....	2	4
Anthoriidæ.....	2	3	Physaliidæ.....	4	11
Apolemiidæ.....	3	4			

WHITE'S REVIEW OF THE FOSSIL OSTREIDÆ OF NORTH AMERICA,¹ and a Comparison of the Fossil Forms with the Living Forms.—This is a compilation of material already published, arranged to show the geological history of the oyster family, addressed rather to the general reader than to the special student. The author recognizes three genera, and a sub-genus among fossil forms, but groups all the living species under one genus—*Ostrea* proper. Mr. Ryder contrib-

¹ A Review of the Fossil Ostreidæ of North America, and a Comparison of the Fossil with the Living Forms. By Charles A. White, M.D. With Appendices by Prof. Angelo Heilprin and Mr. John A. Ryder. Extract from the Fourth Annual Report U. S. Geol. Survey.

utes as an appendix an interesting sketch of the life history of the oyster. Of the forty-eight plates which accompany the paper ten, are excellent drawings of living species, so that the reader can compare for himself the fossil and the recent forms. A second appendix, North American Tertiary Ostreidæ, by Prof. Angelo Heilprin, completes the review.

RUSSELL'S GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF SOUTHERN OREGON.¹—This paper is the result of the author's own observations in this region, and his conclusions are summed up as follows :

"The rocks are almost entirely igneous. The basins are orographic valleys of the Great Basin type. During the Plistocene the excess of precipitation over evaporation was greater than at present. A number of the Plistocene lakes did not overflow. Many of the lakes which now occupy basins of extensive Plistocene lakes that did not find an outlet are either fresh, or hold but a small amount of mineral matter in solution. Many of the basins now occupied by arid deserts were then filled with lakes. No glaciers existed during the Plistocene period in that part of Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains, and south of the forty-fourth parallel."

The paper is illustrated by two excellent maps and several cuts of sections in different localities.

THE PELAGIC STAGE OF YOUNG FISHES, by Agassiz and Whitman.²—This memoir is a continuation of the papers on the young stages of osseous fishes commenced by Mr. Agassiz in 1877, and is devoted to descriptive sketches of the different fish eggs and young fishes that have come under the author's notice. As far as possible figures of the characteristic stages of each species have been given, and many of the sketches supplement those formerly published by Mr. Agassiz. There is added a synoptic table of the characters of various eggs and young fishes with reference to the plates where they are figured, which will enable the student to identify them with little difficulty.

WRIGHT ON THE SKULL AND AUDITORY ORGAN OF THE SILUROID HYPOPHthalmus.³—The object of this paper is to

¹ A Geological Reconnaissance in Southern Oregon. By Israel C. Russell. Extract from the Fourth Annual Report U. S. Geol. Survey, 1884.

² The Pelagic Stages of Young Fishes. By Alexander Agassiz and C. O. Whitman. With nineteen plates. Extract from the Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Vol. xiv., No. 1, Part i., 1885.

³ On the Skull and Auditory Organ of the Siluroid Hypophthalmus. By R. Ramsay Wright, University College, Toronto. Extract Trans. Roy. Soc., Canada, 1885.